

My sheep hear my voice, and I know them,
and they follow me. "

(John 10:27)



Sunday, April 30, 2023

Fourth Sunday in Easter

Service Theme

HE LIVES TO BE MY GOOD SHEPHERD

Like sheep, we need a shepherd to protect us from all the dangers that threaten us. But many people claim to be our shepherd; whom shall we believe? Only he who always comes to us through Jesus and leads us to Jesus. Why? Because Jesus is the Good Shepherd who knows us and whom we know through the Gospel. Jesus is the one who sought and saved us – gathering us together as one flock. In Him, we rejoice – caring for each other as he cares for us. We only hear his voice through the Gospel. Therefore, Jesus encourages us only to follow the pastor who preaches the Gospel in its truth and purity, for only such a man will lead us to Christ in everything.

The King of Love My Shepherd Is



1 The King of love my shep - herd is, Whose
 2 Where streams of liv - ing wa - ter flow, My
 3 Con - fused and fool - ish oft I strayed, But
 4 In death's dark vale I fear no ill With
 5 You spread a ta - ble in my sight, A



good - ness fails me nev - er; I noth - ing lack if
 Sav - ior gent - ly leads me; And where the ver - dant
 yet in love he sought me And on his shoul - der
 you, dear Lord, be - side me; Your rod and staff my
 ban - quet here be - stow - ing; Your oil of wel - come,



I am his, And he is mine for - ev - er.
 pas - tures grow, With food ce - les - tial feeds me.
 gent - ly laid And home, re - joic - ing, brought me.
 com - fort still, Your cross be - fore to guide me.
 my de - light; My cup is o - ver - flow - ing!

6 And so through all the length of days
 Your goodness fails me never.
 Good Shepherd, may I sing your praise
 Within your house forever!

Order of Service

Service of Word and Sacrament (p.26)

M: The grace of our Lord (+) Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

C: And also with you.

CONFESSION OF SINS

M: God invites us to come into his presence and worship him with humble and penitent hearts. Therefore, let us acknowledge our sinfulness and ask him to forgive us.

C: Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.

M: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son (+) and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

PRAYER AND PRAISE

M: For all that we need in life and for the wisdom to use all your gifts with gratitude and joy, hear our prayer, O Lord.

C: *(sing)* Lord, have mercy.

M: For the steadfast assurance that nothing can separate us from your love and for the courage to stand firm against the assaults of Satan and every evil, hear our prayer, O Christ.

C: *(sing)* Christ, have mercy.

M: For the well-being of your holy Church in all the world and for those who offer here their worship and praise, hear our prayer, O Lord.

C: *(sing)* Lord, have mercy.

M: Merciful God, maker and preserver of life, uphold us by your power and keep us in your tender care:

C: *(sing)* Amen

M: The works of the Lord are great and glorious; his name is worthy of praise.

C: *(sing)*

O Lord, our Lord, how glorious is your name in all the earth.

Almighty God, merciful Father, you crown our life with your love.

You take away our sin; you comfort our spirit;

you make us pure and holy in your sight.

You did not spare your only Son, but gave him up for us all.

O Lord, our Lord, how glorious is your name in all the earth.

O Son of God, eternal Word of the Father, you came to live with us;

you made your Father known;

you washed us from our sins in your own blood.

You are the King of glory; you are the Lord!

O Lord, our Lord, how glorious is your name in all the earth.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Let us pray.

O Lord Jesus Christ, you are the Good Shepherd who laid down your life for the sheep. Lead us now to the still waters of your life-giving Word that we may abide in your Father's house forevermore; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: *(sing)* Amen.

First Reading

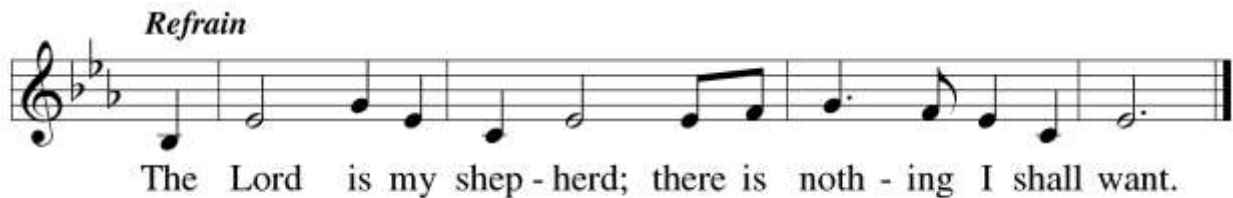
Acts 2:42-47 (EHV)

The early Church was marked by devotion to apostolic teaching and genuine love for one another. And the Good Shepherd's flock grew.

⁴²They continued to hold firmly to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of the bread, and to the prayers. ⁴³Awe came over every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. ⁴⁴All the believers were together and had everything in common. ⁴⁵They were selling their possessions and property and were distributing the proceeds according to what anyone needed.

⁴⁶Day after day, with one mind, they were devoted to meeting in the temple area, as they continued to break bread in their homes. They shared their food with glad and sincere hearts, ⁴⁷as they continued praising God and being viewed favorably by all the people. Day after day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

Psalm
23 (p. 72)



The LORD is my shepherd,*
I shall not be in want.

He makes me lie down in green
pastures;*
he leads me beside quiet waters.

He restores my soul;*
he guides me in paths of
righteousness
for his name's sake.

Even though I walk through the valley
of the shadow of death, I will fear no
evil,*
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff, they comfort
me.

Refrain

You prepare a table before me in the
presence of my enemies.*
You anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.

Surely goodness and love will follow me
all the days of my life,*
and I will dwell in the house of the
LORD forever.

**Glory be to the Father and to the
Son***

**and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,*
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Refrain

Second Reading

1 Peter 2:19–25 (EHV)

St. Peter calls us to follow our Shepherd and Overseer, even if it means that we suffer for doing good.

¹⁹For this is favorable: if a person endures sorrows while suffering unjustly because he is conscious of God. ²⁰For what credit is it to you if you receive a beating for sinning and patiently endure it? But if you suffer for doing good and endure it, this is favorable with God.

²¹Indeed, you were called to do this, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example so that you would follow in his steps. ²²He did not commit a

sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth.

²³When he was insulted, he did not insult in return. When he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly. ²⁴He himself carried our sins in his body on the tree so that we would be dead to sins and alive to righteousness. By his wounds you were healed. ²⁵For you were like sheep going astray, but you are now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

Verse of the Day

Alleluia. Alleluia. I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me.
Alleluia. (John 10:14)

C: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

These words are written that we may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Gospel Lesson

John 10:1–10 (EHV)

Jesus is not only our Good Shepherd. He is the gate through which we enter into the green pastures of salvation.

“Amen, Amen, I tell you: Anyone who does not enter the sheep pen by the door, but climbs in by some other way, is a thief and a robber. ²The one who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. ³The doorkeeper opens the door for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴When he has brought out all his own sheep, he walks ahead of them. The sheep follow him because they know his voice. ⁵They will never follow a stranger, but will run away from him, because they do not know the voice of strangers.” ⁶Jesus used this

illustration in speaking to the people, but they did not understand what he was telling them.

⁷So Jesus said again, “Amen, Amen, I tell you: I am the door for the sheep. ⁸All who came before me were thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. ⁹I am the door. Whoever enters through me will be saved. He will come in and go out, and find pasture.

¹⁰“A thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.

C: Praise be to you, O Christ

Sermon Hymn

“Savior, Like A Shepherd Lead Us”

1. Savior, like a shepherd lead us,
Much we need Thy tender care;
In Thy pleasant pastures feed us,
For our use Thy folds prepare:
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
Thou hast bought us, Thine we are;
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
Thou hast bought us, Thine we are.

2. Thou hast promised to receive us,
Poor and sinful though we be;
Thou hast mercy to relieve us,
Grace to cleanse, and pow’r to free:
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
Ever let us turn to Thee;
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
Ever let us turn to Thee.

2. We are Thine; do Thou befriend us,
Be the guardian of our way;
Keep Thy flock, from sin defend us,
Seek us when we go astray:
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
Hear, O hear us when we pray;
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
Hear, O hear us when we pray.

3. Ever let us seek Thy favor;
Ever let us do Thy will;
Blessed Lord and only Savior,
With Thy love our beings fill:
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
Thou hast loved us, love us still;
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
Thou hast loved us, love us still.

Sermon Text & Theme

John 10:1-10 ... Know Your Shepherd’s Voice

- 1) Run away from the Stranger.
- 2) Only trust the man who enters through the Door.

NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father.

Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and became fully human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate.

He suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Offertory Prayer

Prayer of the Church for Easter

M: Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God and Mary's son, in the fullness of time you came into our world to save us from sin and death.

C: **You ushered in the day of grace so long foretold.**

M: Beloved Son of the Father, revered by the Magi, baptized by John, you came preaching and teaching, healing and comforting, forgiving and encouraging:

C: **You brought the light of life to those walking in darkness, and the joy of salvation to those doomed to death.**

M: Prince of peace, shine like a beacon for us and the people of our world. Let the good news of salvation be heard in the remotest corners of the earth. Open our own lips to speak your name to those around us who still live without faith or hope:

C: **Arouse us and our missionaries to flood the world with the light of your gospel.**

M: Lord of the Church, let your peace rule our hearts that we may use our gifts to serve you and each other in willing gratitude and joy. Watch over our loved ones near and far, that they may remember your love and rejoice in your salvation. Strengthen the faith of the sick and the disheartened. Give hope to those in despair and comfort those who mourn:

C: **Be gracious to all and lead us to reflect your love in everything we say and do.**

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

M: Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent prayer.

M: Finally, bring us and all your believers to the heavenly home where we will stand in the full light of your glory and with all your saints and angels sing the everlasting song of triumph.

C: **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

C: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

THE SACRAMENT PREFACE

M: The Lord be with you.

C: *(sing)* **And also with you.**

M: Lift up your hearts.

C: *(sing)* **We lift them up unto the Lord.**

M: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

C: *(sing)* **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

M: Praise to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In love he has blessed us with every spiritual blessing. *He raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms and placed all things under his feet for the benefit of the Church.* Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ. To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and thanks and honor and glory for ever and ever:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

C: *(sing)* **Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts.**

The whole earth is full of your glory. You are my God, and I will exalt you. I will give you thanks, for you have become my salvation.

Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts. The whole earth is full of your glory.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

M: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

M: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: *(sing)* **Amen.**

O CHRIST, LAMB OF GOD

C: *(sing)*

O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

**O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us your peace.
Amen.**

DISTRIBUTION

THANK THE LORD

C: *(sing)*

Thank the Lord and sing his praise. Tell ev'ryone what he has done.

Let all who seek the Lord rejoice and proudly bear his name.

**He renews his promises and leads his people forth in joy with shouts of
thanksgiving. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

M: Hear the prayer of your people, O Lord, that the lips which have praised you here may glorify you in the world, that the eyes which have seen the coming of your Son may long for his coming again, and that all who have received in his true body and blood the pledge of your forgiveness may be restored to live a new and holy life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: *(sing)* **Amen.**

BLESSING

M: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another.
Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and (+) give you peace.

C: *(sing)* **Amen. Amen. Amen.**

432

I Am Jesus' Little Lamb



1 I am Je - sus' lit - tle lamb; Ev - er glad at heart I
 2 Day by day, at home, a - way, Je - sus is my staff and
 3 Who so hap - py as I am, E - ven now the shep-herd's



am, For my shep - herd gent - ly guides me, Knows my
 stay. When I hun - ger, Je - sus feeds me, In - to his
 lamb? And when my short life is end - ed, By his



needs and well pro - vides me, Loves me ev - 'ry
 pleas - ant pas - tures leads me; When I thirst, he
 an - gel hosts at - tend - ed, He shall fold me



day the same, E - ven calls me by my name.
 bids me go Where the qui - et wa - ters flow.
 to his breast, There with - in his arms to rest.

Announcements

Church Cleaners:

May 7 - Thomas // May 14 - Philip

DIVINE WORD'S TWO-WEEK CALENDAR

Su (30)	9:00 am 10:30 am 11:45 am 3:00 pm	Bible Class Only Worship with Communion Coffee Hour Worship & Communion in Poltimore <i>(A Voters Meeting will follow the service)</i>
Th (4)	10:30 am 6:30 pm	Devotion at Longfields Manor Confirmation (W)
Fr (5)	3:00 pm 6:00 pm	Online Women's Bible Study Friday Fellowship Bible Study
Su (7)	9:00 am 10:30 am 11:45 am 12:00 PM	Sunday School and Bible Class Worship with Communion First Fellowship Potluck Divine Sisters Meeting
Th (9)	6:30 pm	Confirmation (W)
Fr (12)	3:00 pm	Online Women's Bible Study
Su (14)	9:00 am 10:30 am 11:45 am 3:00 pm	Sunday School and Bible Class Worship with Communion Coffee Hour Worship & Communion in Poltimore



Divine Word

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